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M Y T U R N

The Nosenko Case

In its cover story on Yurchenko (NATIONAL AFFAIRS, Nov. 18), NEWSWEEK suggests that James Angleton, the CIA's former counterintelligence chief, was responsible for the incarceration of another KGB defector, Yuri Nosenko. Specifically, it asserts that "Angleton kept him in solitary confinement for more than three years." Although this charge has been made by no less an authority than former CIA Director Stansfield Turner, it is completely untrue. Angleton did not order the arrest, incarceration or hostile interrogation of Nosenko. Nor did he, or his counterintelligence staff, ever have jurisdiction over the Nosenko case, which was the exclusive responsibility of the CIA's Soviet Russia Division. As is unambiguously set forth in congressional testimony, the chief of that division, David Murphy, made the decision to imprison Nosenko without consulting Angleton. Murphy's main concern was that Nosenko, if not physically restrained, would stage a defection back to the Soviet Union as part of "a massive propaganda assault on the CIA." He pointed out the uses the KGB might make of a "redefted CIA agent" in his original memorandum requesting authority to put Nosenko in escapeproof quarters.

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■ NEWSWEEK regrets the error.

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